

**PARKS MAKE LIFE BETTER!**

A skateboarder in a grey shirt and helmet is captured mid-trick on a concrete ramp. The ramp and surrounding ground are decorated with large, blue, stylized murals of people in various poses. In the background, a group of people, including other skateboarders and spectators, are gathered. Tall palm trees and a clear sky complete the scene.

# **A GUIDE TO CIVIC ART IN LA COUNTY PARKS**

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
PLANNING DIVISION  
JULIE YOM**

Pictured: Alondra Community Regional Park



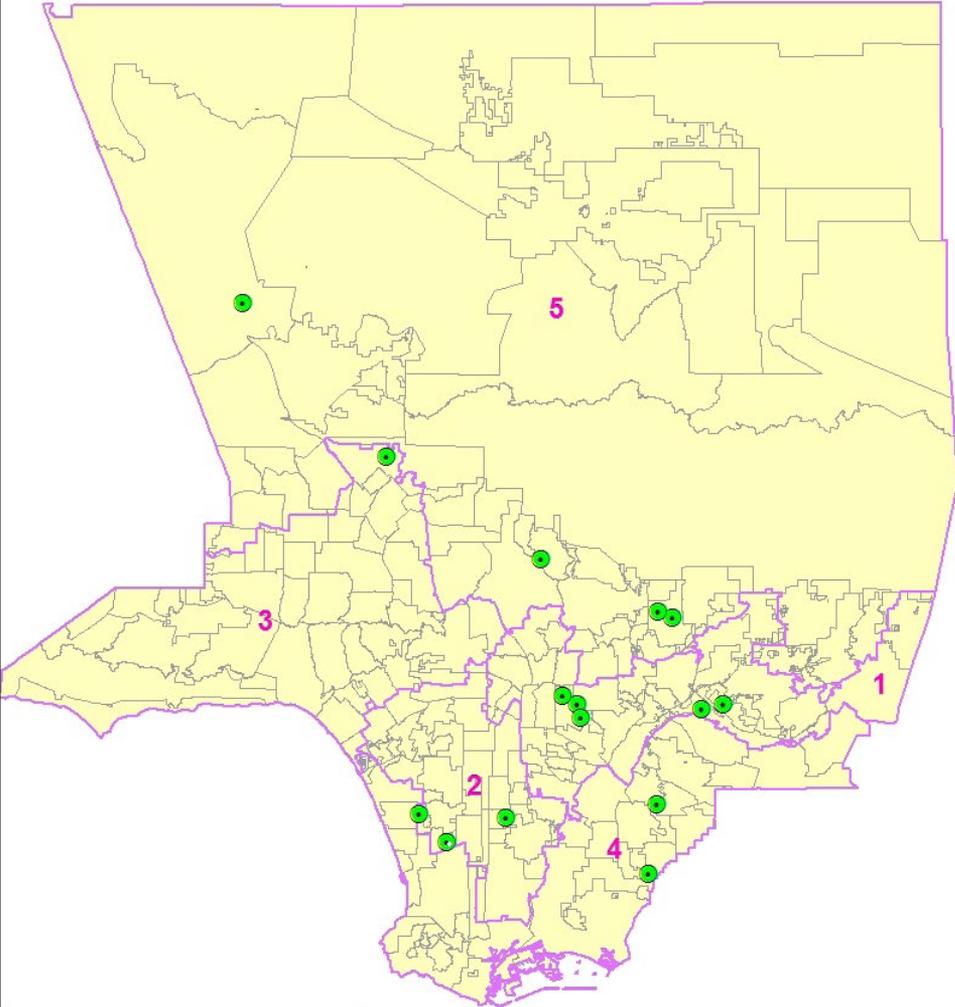
## A GUIDE TO CIVIC ART IN LA COUNTY PARKS

**GOAL:** Create a guide book of the civic art in Los Angeles County parks to be made available on the Department of Parks and Recreation's website for public use (2 year goal: FY 2013/14 and 2014/15).

**PROJECT PURPOSE:** In 38 Los Angeles County parks, there are approximately 65 contemporary and historic civic artworks. They range from historic murals on gymnasium buildings to glass panels at a new pool complex. These artworks have been donated to the County or commissioned by the Board of Supervisors as part of the Arts in Construction legislation which requires 1% of a public construction budget to be allocated for civic art.

The concept is to create a user-friendly guide book of Department's civic art collection. This guide book includes a master map with all the civic art in LA County parks followed by detailed information about each artwork including the title, artist, and facility location. This guide book is available on the Department's website to download for public use. This project is a two-year goal. For FY 2013/14, civic art at 15 parks has been surveyed. The remaining 23 parks will be surveyed during FY 2014/15.

# CIVIC ART IN LA COUNTY PARKS



● Civic Art

▭ Supervisory Districts

▭ Communities

5 Miles



**PARKS AND CIVIC ART SURVEYED**

**ALLEN J. MARTIN PARK**

Title: ooo  
 Artist: Merge Conceptual Design  
 District: First

**CASTAIC SPORTS COMPLEX**

Title: Bubbles  
 Artist: Bob Zoell  
 District: Fifth

**ALONDRA COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARK CERRITOS COMMUNITY REGIONAL COUNTY PARK**

Title: Fluid Dynamics  
 Artist: Mythograph, Inc.  
 District: Second

Title: Cerritos Mural Project  
 Artist: Raul Paulino Baltazar  
 District: Fourth

**AMELIA MAYBERRY PARK**

Title: Unknown  
 Artist: M. Collins, T. Bazarro, J. Rico et al.  
 District: Fourth

Title: Water Henge (H2O= Life)  
 Artist: Kim Emerson  
 District: Fourth

**ARBORETUM AND BOTANIC GARDEN**

Title: Je N'Oublierai Pas  
 Artist: Louis Aimé Lejeune  
 District: Fifth

**CITY TERRACE PARK**

Title: Inner Resources  
 Artist: Paul Botello  
 District: First

**ARCADIA COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARK**

Title: Memorial Peacock fountain  
 Artist: James Fickes  
 District: Fifth

**DEL AIRE PARK**

Title: Del Aire Fruit Park  
 Artist: Fallen Fruit  
 District: Second

**ARCADIA COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARK**

Title: Spanish American War Memorial  
 Artist: Theo Alice Ruggles Kitson  
 District: Fifth

**DESCANSO GARDENS**

Title: Edible Estates  
 Artist: Fritz Haeg  
 District: Fifth

**ATLANTIC AVENUE PARK**

Title: The Water Cycle (Eternal Flow)  
 Artist: Sonia Romero  
 District: First

**EL CARISO COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARK**

Title: ELAIA  
 Artist: Cliff Garten  
 District: Third

**AVENUE PARK**

Title: Unknown  
 Artist: Al Price Studio, Inc.  
 District: First

Title: Wave Fence  
 Artist: Rod Baer  
 District: Third

**BELVEDERE COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARK**

Title: Unknown  
 Artist: Sonia Romero  
 District: First

**ENTERPRISE PARK**

Title: Aquatic Endeavor  
 Artist: Robin Strayhorn  
 District: Second



## ALLEN J. MARTIN PARK

Title: 000

Artist: Merge Conceptual Design  
(Claudia Reisenberger & Franka Diehnelt)

Date: 2008

District: First

Location: 14830 E. Giordano Street  
La Puente, CA 91744

Merge Conceptual Design, an artist collaborative based in Santa Monica, designed and executed a color and graphics scheme for Allen J. Martin Park to unify the park and incorporate a new modular community building and concession stand. To inform their design process, the artists met with the community to gather input on their color scheme and to collect ideas for artwork imagery. A culminating Community Paint Day attracted over thirty children, teens and adults to spray paint stenciled images onto the park buildings' circles. To drive the point home, Claudia and Franka made healthy food representing the paint scheme colors. This example of artist-initiated community engagement successfully reinforced the neighborhood's sense of pride and ownership of the park and serves as a model for future projects.

Merge Conceptual Design's paint scheme also functions as a creative graffiti abatement strategy. If the buildings were to be tagged, the park manager has the circle stencils and instructions to paint over the tag with a specific color. In this way, the park is empowered to address vandalism with an artistic, proactive approach.





## ALONDRA COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARK

Title: Fluid Dynamics

Artist: Mythograph, Inc.

Date: 2011

District: Second

Location: 3850 West Manhattan Beach Boulevard

Lawndale, CA 90260

Alondra Park is a community regional park of approximately 84 acres located in Lawndale, California. The current renovation entailed demolishing and replacing the existing facilities with a new 25-yard by 25-meter pool, a 6,000 square foot pool house and recreation building, a 3,000 square-foot water play area, a 14,000 square-foot skateboard park and various other general improvements.

Kipp Kobayashi and Marta Perlas of Mythograph explored Alondra Park before designing Fluid Dynamics. One of the first things that they noticed was the physical presence of the lake. In addition to being the park's most defining feature, the lake is also habitat to many bird species. Inspired, the artists were compelled to use water as a unifying theme.





## AMELIA MAYBERRY PARK

Title: Unknown

Artists: M. Collins, T. Bazurto, J. Rico, B. Haro, D. Maez, J. Llamas, M. Gallegos, A. Torres, R. Torres, R. Pacheco, D. Barron, M Marouez, D. Carbajal, R. Rico, K Pittman, Papo, B. Silva.

Date: 1975

District: Fourth

Location: 13201 E Meyer Road

Whittier, CA 90605

Mural located on the side of the senior center building. It is signed, designed & supervised by David Lopez, 1975. Assistant Supervisor, Alex Reyes.

## ARBORETUM AND BOTANIC GARDEN

Title: Je N'Oublierai Pas

Artist: Louis Aimé Lejeune

Date: 1930

District: Fifth

Location: 301 N. Baldwin Ave.,  
Arcadia, CA 91007



This sculpture by Louis Aimé Lejeune was originally commissioned in 1930 by Anita Baldwin, a well-known patron of the arts and daughter of southern California land developer E.J. Baldwin. It is titled Je N'Oublierai Pas, which translates as "I will not forget," a phrase which appears on the Baldwin family crest.

The 7' h x 4 1/2' w x 2 1/2' d white marble sculpture depicts a female figure standing beside a low column. Her arms cradle an urn. The column is decorated with a bas-relief image of a squirrel holding three acorns. Below the squirrel are three pairs of oak leaves, as well as the carved French phrase which gives the sculpture its name. The oak motif reflects the importance of these trees to the Baldwin family. Because of her father's love for oaks, Anita Baldwin named her estate Anoakia.



## ARCADIA COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARK

Title: Memorial Peacock fountain  
 Artist: James Fickes  
 Date: 2002  
 District: Fifth  
 Location: 405 S. Santa Anita Blvd.  
 Arcadia, CA 91006

In 2002, the Arcadia Rotary Club dedicated the peacock fountain in recognition of Arcadians who died in combat. The plaque inside plaza reads, "To those in the Arcadia area who gave their lives in war...".

## ARCADIA COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARK

Title: Spanish American War Memorial, "The Hiker"  
 Artist: Theo Alice Ruggles Kitson  
 Date: 1941  
 District: Fifth  
 Location: 405 S. Santa Anita Blvd.,  
 Arcadia, CA 91006



This bronze sculpture by Theo Alice Ruggles Kitson is one of 52 casts of the Spanish American War Memorial (also known as The Hiker) made between 1921 and 1956 to commemorate the 1898 Spanish American War. Los Angeles County presented and dedicated this artwork to the United Spanish War Veterans of Southern California in 1941.

The sculpture is 6' h and stands on a concrete and granite base measuring 5'2" h x 8' w x 8' d. The work depicts a solitary man dressed in canvas clothes and a fedora hat. He holds a rifle in front of his body and stands facing straight ahead. For many years The Hiker was located in Arcadia Park at the southwest corner of Huntington Drive at Santa Anita Avenue, but it was moved to its present location in the Park's center and rededicated on June 21, 1993.

## ATLANTIC AVENUE PARK

Title: The Water Cycle (Eternal Flow)

Artist: Sonia Romero

Date: 2008

District: First

Location: 570 South Atlantic Blvd  
Los Angeles, CA 90022



Sonia Romero's aquatic themed color and graphic paint scheme for Atlantic Avenue Park Pool brings attention to the importance of fresh water, including its benefits and uses for human kind. Symbols of the water cycle, representations of water gods and protective nymphs from a variety of cultures, and images of swimmers, divers, and other human activities are featured.

Paint labor was provided by youth from the Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC), a program that provides job skills, training, education, and work experience for youth, with an emphasis on service projects that benefit the community. Sonia Romero led a pre-painting workshop with the youth participants to explain the intent of the design and discuss execution techniques.

Sonia Romero's color and graphic paint scheme also functions as a creative graffiti abatement strategy. If the buildings are tagged in the future, the Department of Parks & Recreation will utilize the artist provided stencils to recreate the design. In this way, the park is empowered to address vandalism with an artistic, proactive approach.





## AVENUE PARK

Title: Unknown

Artist: Al Price Studio, Inc.

Date: 2012

District: First

Location: 553 South 4th Avenue

La Puente, CA 91746

Sculptor Al Price found inspiration in the local history of La Puente. According to legend, Don Gaspar de Portola arrived in the area in 1769 and named the region “Llana de la Puente” meaning “Plain of the Bridge,” after making a bridge of poles so his party could cross San Jose Creek.

The custom artwork functions as a bridge railing that incorporates shapes and forms indigenous to Avocado Heights. The railing’s repeating moiré effect suggests a sequence of floating horse hooves, indicative of the active equestrian community in the area. Visually, the sculptural railing appears to twist and turn as pedestrians walk across the bridge deck. The look of the bridge will evolve as light and shadow change over the course of the day.

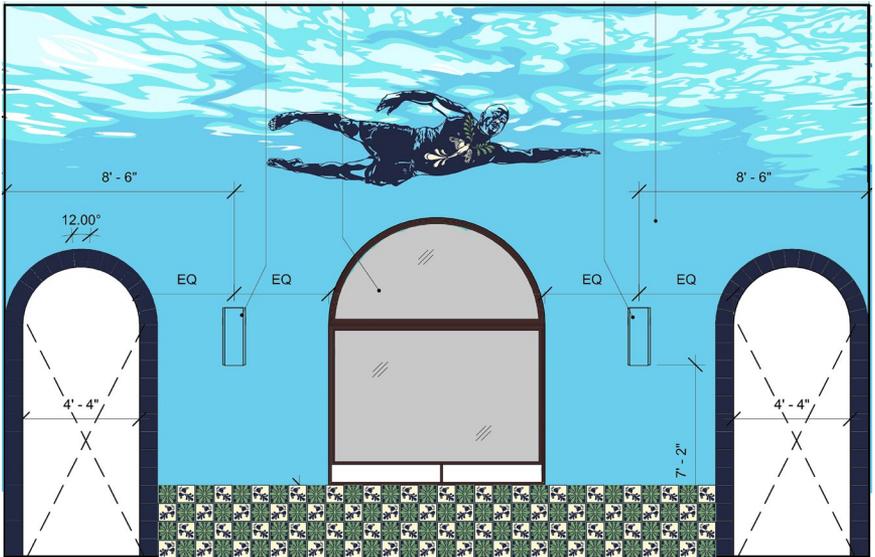
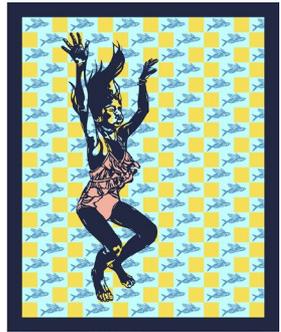


**BELVEDERE COMMUNITY  
REGIONAL PARK**  
(Work in Progress)

Title: Unknown  
 Artist: Sonia Romero  
 Date: 2014  
 District: First  
 Location: 4914 E Cesar Chavez Ave.  
 Los Angeles, CA 90022



A mural and mosaic tiles to be installed in the interior and exterior of the renovated Pool House that is currently under construction. The images portray the local swimmers of the community.



## CASTAIC SPORTS COMPLEX

Title: Bubbles

Artist: Bob Zoell

Date: 2013

District: Fifth

Location: 31230 N. Castaic Road  
Castaic, CA 91384



Artist Bob Zoell designed a series of 21 glass panels for the state-of-the-art aquatic center at the Castaic Regional Sports Complex in Castaic, CA. The 330 square-foot west facing glass curtain is a featured element in the entryway of the new 12,500 square foot Aquatic Center. The Center features an Olympic-sized swimming pool, a shallow wading pool and a splash pad with water features.

Zoell's expertise in the field of design shines through in the artwork created for the Castaic Sports Complex Aquatic Center. Zoell custom designed a graphic motif that resembles an effervescent underwater scene. The artwork dramatizes the purpose of the facility as a public pool and harmonizes with the interior color scheme. "There is a careful balance to be struck between the location and the artwork," says Zoell. "When the two elements work in harmony, an opportunity for positive community impact develops, giving art and architecture the power to create a dynamic and memorable urban environment."





## CERRITOS COMMUNITY REGIONAL COUNTY PARK

Title: Cerritos Mural Project

Artist: Raul Paulino Baltazar

Date: 2013

District: Fourth

Location: 19800 Bloomfield Ave.  
Cerritos, CA 90703

Artist Raul Paulino Baltazar partnered with the LA County Teens of Cerritos Program to create a mural for the façade of the gymnasium at Cerritos Community Regional Park. Over the course of eight weeks, Baltazar led the teen participants through a curriculum that taught them how to create a site-specific permanent artwork using research and project organization methods. Together Baltazar and the teens researched the history of the area to develop a design for the mural. They used painting techniques inspired by the history of plein air painting in Southern California to create a landscape that tells the story of the past and present of Cerritos. At first glance, the mural looks like a traditional Impressionist landscape. Upon closer inspection, the viewer discovers layers of histories, activities, cultures, time and space related to the Cerritos area. Each of the vignettes is positioned in historic, aesthetic subjective or ironic relationship to one another and are meant to be read poetically.





## CERRITOS COMMUNITY REGIONAL COUNTY PARK

Title: Water Henge (H2O= Life)

Artist: Kim Emerson

Date: 2009

District: Fourth

Location: 19800 Bloomfield Ave.  
Cerritos, CA 90703

Water Henge: H2O = Life consists of five free-standing sculptures that together tell the story of water in Cerritos and the Los Angeles Basin through text and imagery. The artwork is arranged in an inviting circular pattern that encourages visitors to gather and learn. The largest sculpture, approximately 13' high and oriented true north, features a powder coated steel "sun" that casts a shadow onto the central sculpture during the spring and fall equinox. The sculptures are made of expanded polystyrene (EPS) and coated with cement and ceramic tile mosaics.

Sculpture one (largest) represents the ocean and the prehistoric life forms found under water millions of years ago. A text tile reads "If you were standing here 40 million years ago, you would be under 5,000 feet of ocean." Sculpture two represents the period after the eastern mountain range pushed upward and the area became marshlands where dinosaurs once roamed. Sculpture three represents a time when the mountains continued to push upward drying the landscape creating a flat field ideal for migrating animals. Sculpture four (fourth largest) represents the rain-shadow desert which had abundant plant life, including wild barley, oats and grapes as well as willow, oak and sycamore trees. Sculpture five (smallest) features the four cardinal directions and a mirror image of the "sun" atop sculpture one.

The artwork was dedicated on January 26, 2009. The City of Cerritos provided matching funds for the execution of this project. The County owns and maintains the artwork.



## CITY TERRACE PARK

Title: Inner Resources

Artist: Paul Botello

Date: 2000

District: First

Location: 1126 N. Hazard Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90063



Through the Los Angeles County Probation Department artist Paul Botello worked with at-risk youth to produce a monumental mural for the exterior of the City Terrace Park gymnasium. Spanning almost 30' h x 50' w this mural references Latin American culture and history through a variety of complex symbols and diverse themes.

For the park, which is in a residential area, Botello wanted to create a peaceful mural that was “about the veneration of life.” Inner Resources revolves around the central figure of a Mexican Indian goddess from whom life and bounty flows. She is surrounded by people planting, harvesting, and celebrating. In a section to the viewer’s right, a mother lovingly guides her daughter out the front door into the larger world outside.





## DEL AIRE PARK

Title: Del Aire Fruit Park

Artist: Fallen Fruit

Date: 2012

District: Second

Location: 12601 South Isis Avenue  
Hawthorne, CA 90251

The Del Aire Fruit Park is a ground-breaking civic art commission designed to provide the community with an urban orchard that will be sustained, nurtured and harvested by the public.

Artist collective Fallen Fruit, through public engagement and a close collaboration with the Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and the Department of Parks and Recreation, planted the Del Aire Fruit Park. It is the first of its kind in California. Fallen Fruit hosted a fruit tree adoption, a fruit jam-making event and a tree planting day at Del Aire Park to generate a sense of shared ownership and longterm stewardship of the civic art project among residents, local students and County staff. Over 200 people from throughout the area with ages ranging from five to 75 participated in the three events.

The fruit park includes an orchard with 27 fruit trees, ranging from peach to plum, 8 native grapevines and edible herbs — all of which will be harvested freely by the community.





## DESCANSO GARDENS (Temporary)

Title: Edible Estates

Artist: Fritz Haeg

Date: March to November 2008

District: Fifth

Location: 1418 Descanso Drive,  
La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011

In January 2008, Descanso Gardens invited artist Fritz Haeg to create an Edible Estates demonstration garden for their “center circle” area near the Gardens’ main entrance. The area has diameters of 35’ x 70’ and was divided into two halves: a traditional grass lawn and an Edible Estates lawn. In the center of the circle was a house structure which featured information about American lawns as well as a running tally of the water usage, fertilizer amounts, and biological diversity of each side of the demonstration lawn. This allowed visitors to consider suburban lawns in a new way and to explore front yard possibilities. The demonstration garden was on view from March through November 2008.

Fritz Haeg initiated his Edible Estates project in 2005 in Salina, Kansas. Edible Estates demonstrates how urban and suburban front lawns can be transformed from just a few decorative plants, such as grass, into growing dozens of herb, vegetable, and fruit producing gardens.

This was a temporary civic art project from March to November 2008.





## EL CARISO COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARK

Title: ELAIA

Artist: Cliff Garten

Date: 2012

District: Third

Location: 13100 Hubbard Street  
Sylmar, CA 91342

The name of the artwork, Elia derives from the Greek word for “olive.” Sculptor Cliff Garten custom designed a spectacular Sylmar-inspired artwork for the new community center/ gymnasium at the El Cariso Community Regional Park located in Sylmar. Moved by this historical connection, Garten designed three suspended, bronze sculptures of swirling olive branches for the main lobby. As light hits the sculptures, the lobby will reflect the spirit of an olive tree canopy. Each sculpture is approximately six feet tall, two feet in diameter and made from 1/16” sheets of bronze.



## EL CARISO COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARK

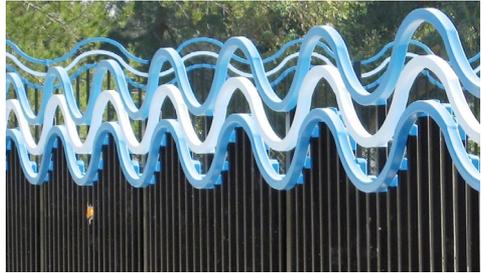
Title: Wave Fence

Artist: Rod Baer

Date: 2008

District: Third

Location: 13100 Hubbard Street  
Sylmar, CA 91342



In 2008, the pool and pool house of the El Cariso Community Regional Park were renovated, including replacement of 1,000 linear feet of chain link fencing surrounding the pool. In partnership with Pedersen, Beckhart, Wesley, and Stice Architects (PBWS), artist Rod Baer developed a custom fence design (see above). The “wave” is painted with two shades of blue.

“Balancing playfulness with graceful form, the wave pattern forms an immediate and understandable symbol for water. By sculpting painted waves on the top edge of the fence, the aquatic center can be seen from all over the park, instantly marking its identity and location to visitors.” – Rod Baer

## ENTERPRISE PARK

Title: Aquatic Endeavor

Artist: Robin Strayhorn

Date: 2008

District: Second

Location: 13055 Clovis Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90059

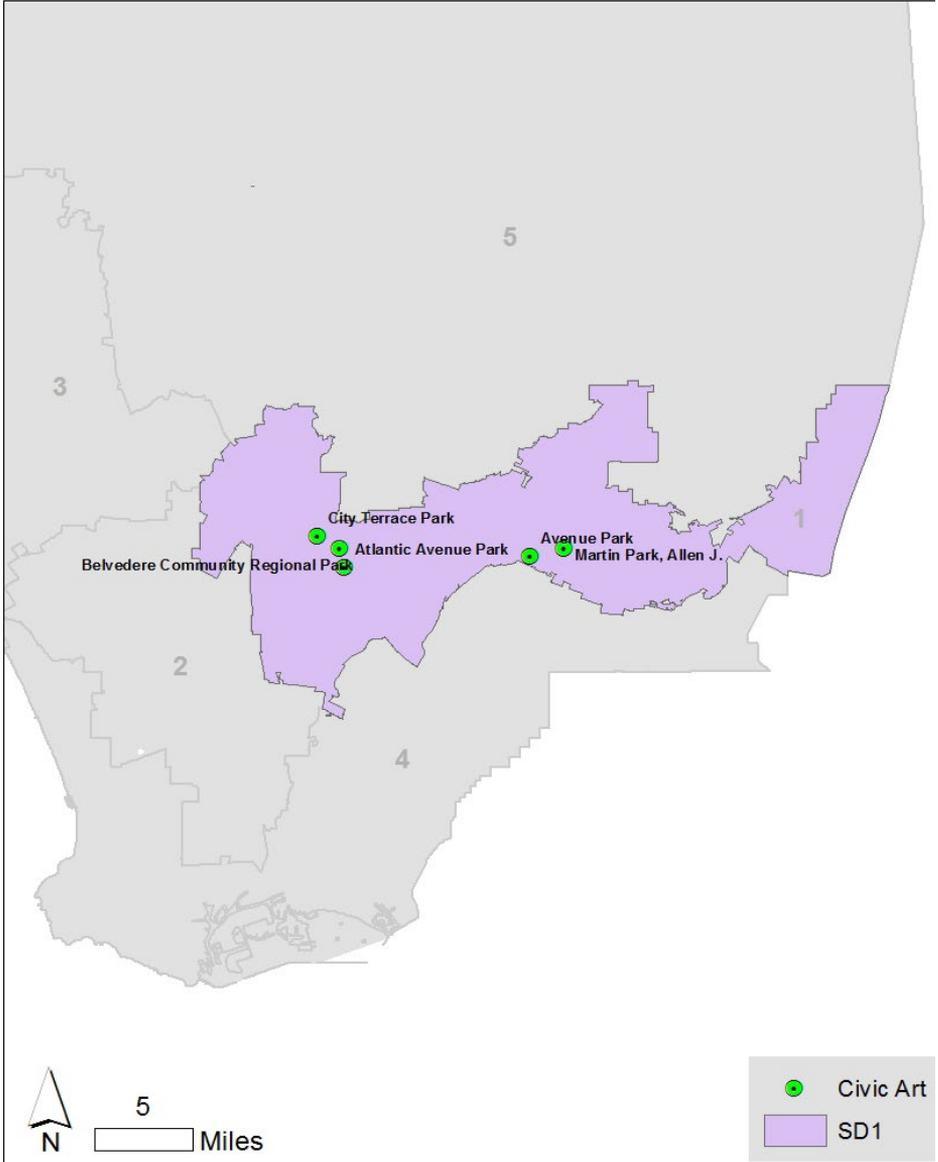


Robin Strayhorn's playful tile mural, at the entrance of Enterprise Park Pool, depicts images of children engaging in water sports. Colorful glazed images of youthful figures were sandblasted to add dimension and create relief on forty 12" x 12" tiles. Also included are a variety of smaller blue tiles which accentuate the water themed artwork. The mural continues into the interior over the entryway to the women's locker room.



**CIVIC ART IN LA COUNTY PARKS  
BY SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT**

# CIVIC ART IN LA COUNTY PARKS: SD 1





**ALLEN J. MARTIN PARK**

Title: ooo  
 Artist: Merge Conceptual Design  
 Date: 2008  
 District: First  
 Location: 14830 E. Giordano Street  
 La Puente, CA 91744



**ATLANTIC AVENUE PARK**

Title: The Water Cycle (Eternal Flow)  
 Artist: Sonia Romero  
 Date: 2008  
 District: First  
 Location: 570 South Atlantic Blvd  
 Los Angeles, CA 90022



**AVENUE PARK**

Title: Unknown  
 Artist: Al Price Studio, Inc.  
 Date: 2012  
 District: First  
 Location: 553 South 4th Avenue  
 La Puente, CA 91746



**BELVEDERE COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARK**

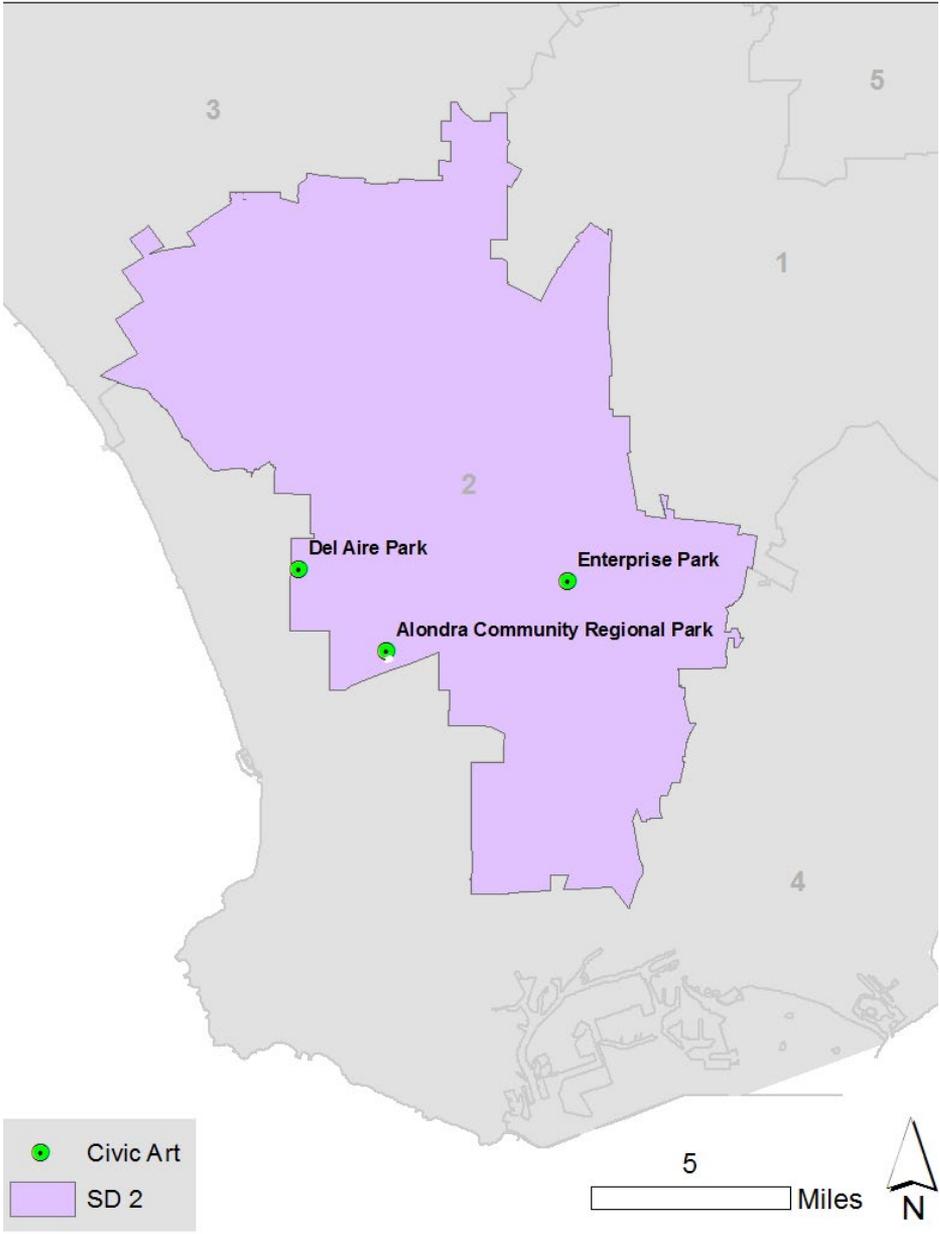
Title: Unknown  
 Artist: Sonia Romero  
 Date: 2014  
 District: First  
 Location: 4914 E Cesar Chavez Ave.  
 Los Angeles, CA 90022



**CITY TERRACE PARK**

Title: Inner Resources  
 Artist: Paul Botello  
 Date: 2000  
 District: First  
 Location: 1126 N. Hazard Avenue  
 Los Angeles, CA 90063

# CIVIC ART IN LA COUNTY PARKS: SD 2





## ALONDRA COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARK

Title: Fluid Dynamics

Artist: Mythograph, Inc.

Date: 2011

District: Second

Location: 3850 West Manhattan Beach Boulevard

Lawndale, CA 90260



## DEL AIRE PARK

Title: Del Aire Fruit Park

Artist: Fallen Fruit

Date: 2012

District: Second

Location: 12601 South Isis Avenue  
Hawthorne, CA 90251



## ENTERPRISE PARK

Title: Aquatic Endeavor

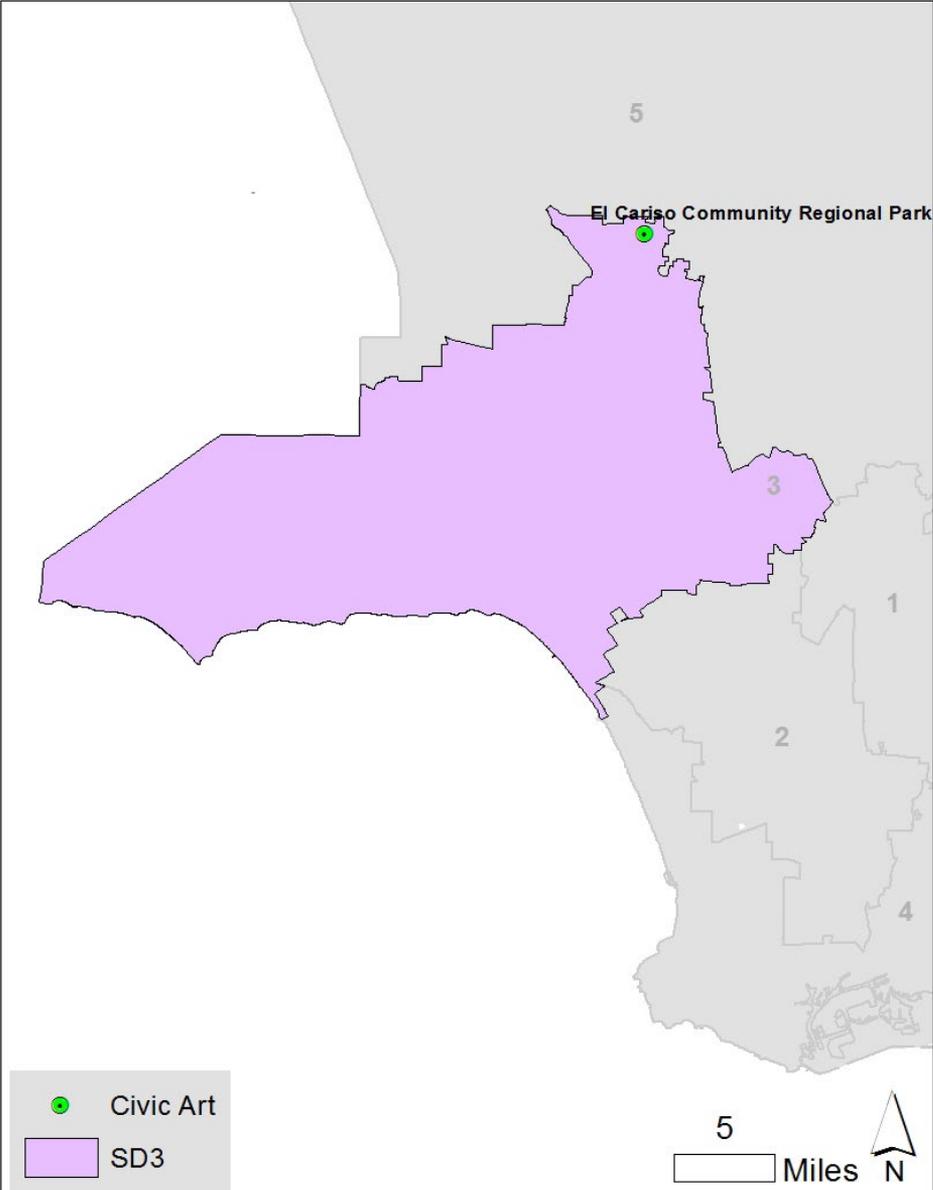
Artist: Robin Strayhorn

Date: 2008

District: Second

Location: 13055 Clovis Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90059

# CIVIC ART IN LA COUNTY PARKS: SD 3





**EL CARISO COMMUNITY  
REGIONAL PARK**

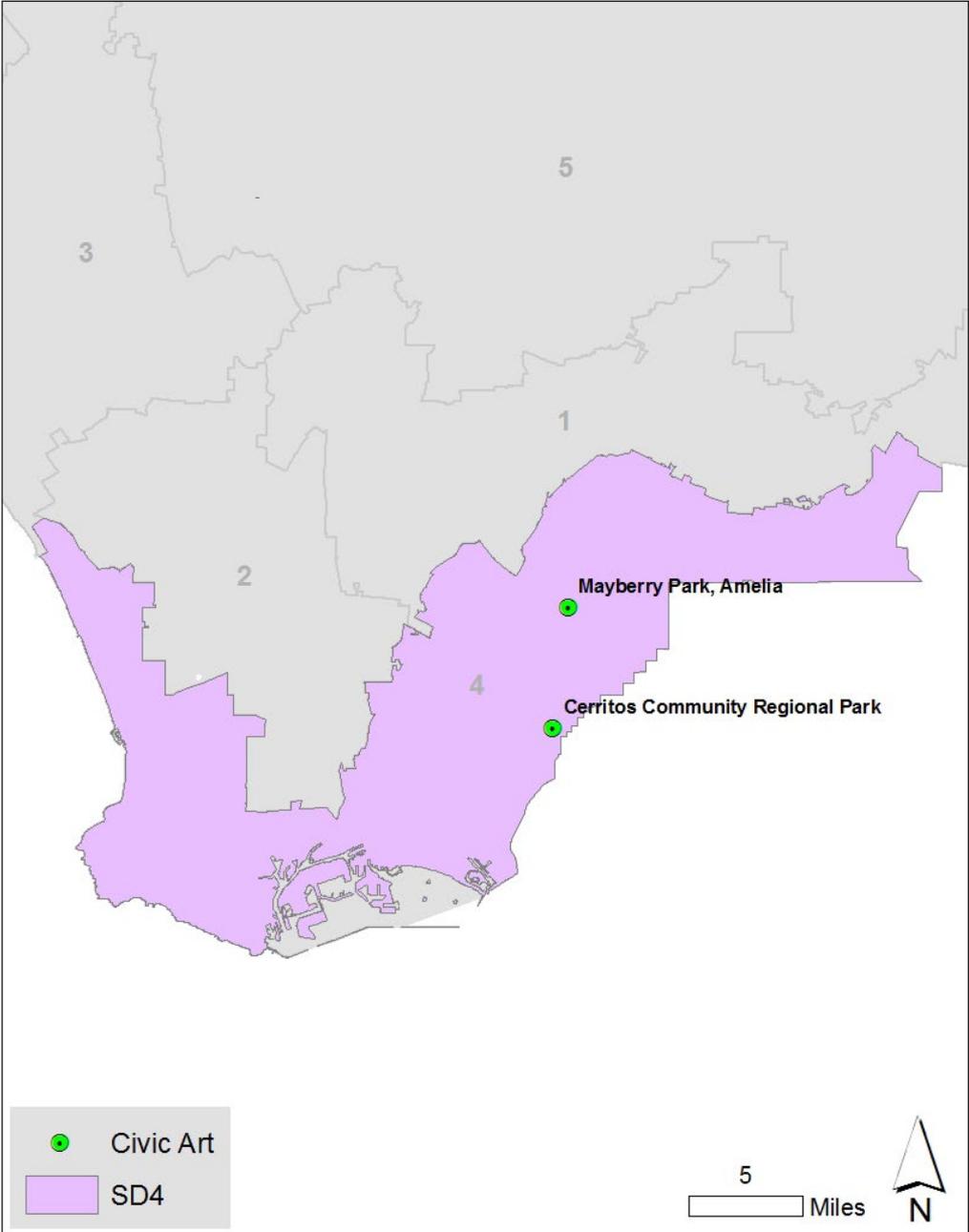
Title: ELAIA  
Artist: Cliff Garten  
Date:2012  
District: Third  
Location:13100 Hubbard Street  
Sylmar, CA 91342



**EL CARISO COMMUNITY  
REGIONAL PARK**

Title: Wave Fence  
Artist: Rod Baer  
Date: 2008  
District:Third  
Location:13100 Hubbard Street  
Sylmar, CA 91342

# CIVIC ART IN LA COUNTY PARKS: SD 4





### AMELIA MAYBERRY PARK

Title: Unknown  
Artists: M. Collins, T. Bazurto, J. Rico et al.  
Date: 1975  
District: Fourth  
Location: 13201 E Meyer Road  
Whittier, CA 90605



### CERRITOS COMMUNITY REGIONAL COUNTY PARK

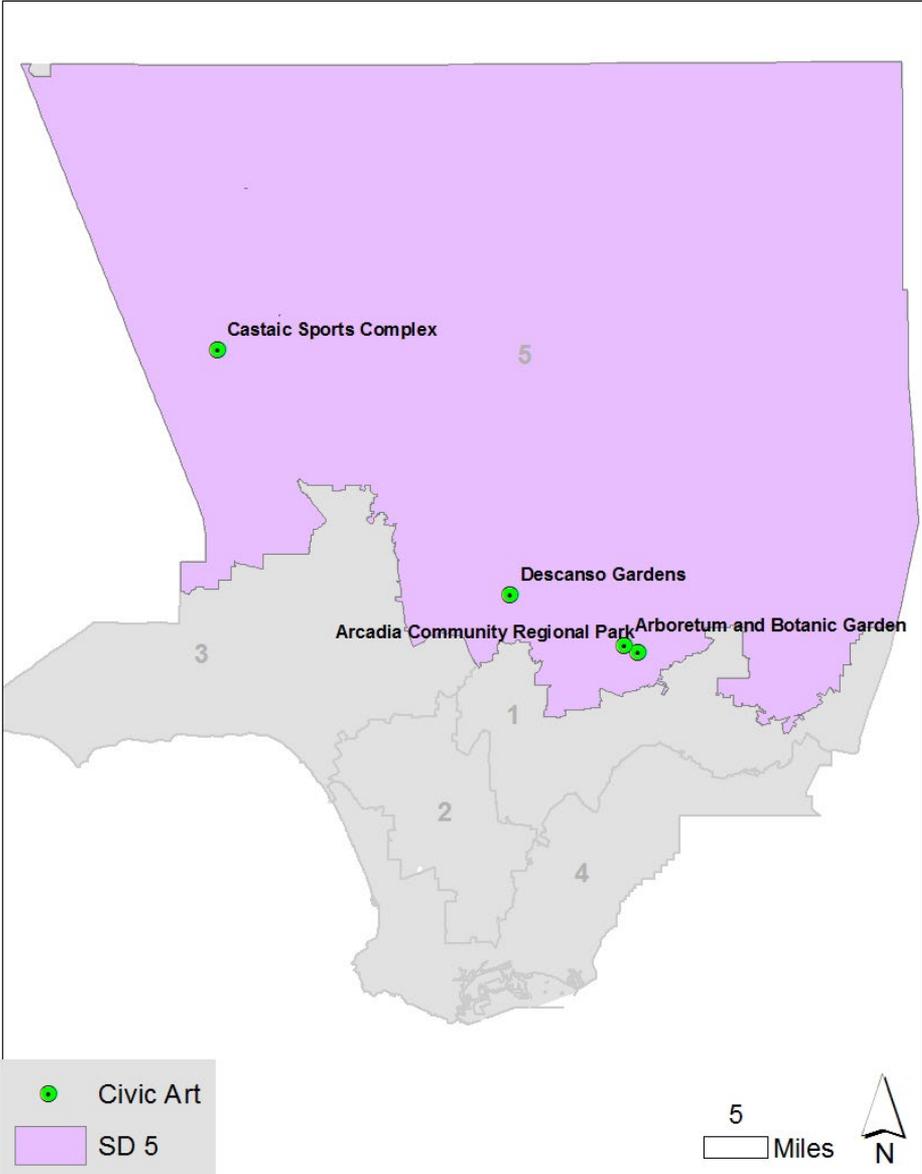
Title: Cerritos Mural Project  
Artist: Raul Paulino Baltazar  
Date: 2013  
District: Fourth  
Location: 19800 Bloomfield Ave.  
Cerritos, CA 90703



### CERRITOS COMMUNITY REGIONAL COUNTY PARK

Title: Water Henge (H<sub>2</sub>O= Life)  
Artist: Kim Emerson  
Date: 2009  
District: Fourth  
Location: 19800 Bloomfield Ave.  
Cerritos, CA 90703

# CIVIC ART IN LA COUNTY PARKS: SD 5





### ARBORETUM AND BOTANIC GARDEN

Title: Je N'Oublierai Pas  
 Artist: Louis Aimé Lejeune  
 Date: 1930  
 District: Fifth  
 Location: 301 N. Baldwin Ave.,  
 Arcadia, CA 91007



### ARCADIA COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARK

Title: Memorial Peacock fountain  
 Artist: fountain design by James Fickes  
 Date: 2002  
 District: Fifth  
 Location: 405 S. Santa Anita Blvd.  
 Arcadia, CA 91006



### ARCADIA COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARK

Title: Spanish American War Memorial, "The Hiker"  
 Artist: Theo Alice Ruggles Kitson  
 Date: 1941  
 District: Fifth  
 Location: 405 S. Santa Anita Blvd  
 Arcadia, CA 91006



### CASTAIC AQUATIC CENTER

Title: Bubbles  
 Artist: Bob Zoell  
 Date: 2013  
 District: Fifth  
 Location: 31230 N. Castaic Road  
 Castaic, CA 91384



### DESCANSO GARDENS

Title: Edible Estates  
 Artist: Fritz Haeg  
 Date: March to November 2008  
 District: Fifth  
 Location: 1418 Descanso Drive,  
 La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011